



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 135

LCO No. 1473



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO HUSKY PLUS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-294a of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The commissioner shall, within available appropriations,
5 establish a supplemental health program to be known as HUSKY Plus
6 for [members of the subsidized portions of] HUSKY B members whose
7 medical needs cannot be accommodated within the basic benefit
8 package offered to members. The HUSKY Plus program shall
9 supplement coverage for those medically eligible members with
10 intensive physical health needs.

11 (b) Within available appropriations, the commissioner shall contract
12 with one or more entities to (1) administer and operate the HUSKY
13 Plus program, [Such entities shall be the same entities that the
14 Department of Public Health contracts with to administer and operate
15 the program under Title V of the Social Security Act. The advisory

16 committee established by the Department of Public Health for Title V
17 of the Social Security Act shall be the steering committee for such
18 program, except that such committee shall include representatives of
19 the Departments of Social Services and Children and Families] and (2)
20 conduct an external quality review of the HUSKY Plus program.

21 (c) [The acuity standards or diagnostic eligibility criteria, or both,
22 the service benefits package and the provider network for the HUSKY
23 Plus program shall be consistent with that of Title V of the Social
24 Security Act. Such] The service benefit package shall be supplemental
25 to HUSKY B services and shall include powered wheelchairs. If a
26 provider is not enrolled in the medical assistance program, the
27 provider shall accept the medical assistance program rates as payment
28 in full and such other conditions as the commissioner may specify.

29 (d) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
30 chapter 54, to (1) establish criteria and specify services for the HUSKY
31 Plus program, and (2) establish a procedure for the appeal of a denial
32 of coverage under the HUSKY Plus program. [Such regulations shall
33 provide that (1) an appeal of a denial of coverage for a medically
34 eligible member shall be taken to the steering committee, and (2) a
35 medically eligible member may appeal the decision of any such
36 steering committee to the commissioner] Such regulations shall state
37 that the HUSKY Plus program shall give priority in such program to
38 members with household incomes at or below two hundred forty-nine
39 per cent of the federal poverty level.

40 [(e) The commissioner shall contract for an external quality review
41 of the HUSKY Plus program.]

42 [(f)] (e) On and after the date on which any medically eligible
43 member begins receiving benefits under the HUSKY Plus program,
44 such member shall not be eligible for services under Title V of the
45 Social Security Act, with the exception of respite care services.

46 [(g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with

47 the provisions of chapter 54, to establish criteria and specify services
 48 for the HUSKY Plus program. Such regulations shall state that the
 49 HUSKY Plus program shall give priority in such program to members
 50 with household incomes at or below two hundred forty-nine per cent
 51 of the federal poverty level.]

52 [(h)] (f) As used in this section, "medically eligible member" means
 53 any member with intensive physical health needs [who meets the
 54 acuity standards or diagnostic eligibility criteria adopted by the
 55 commissioner regarding the acuity, diagnosis, functional impairment
 56 and intensive service needs of the member] whose medical needs
 57 cannot be met within the HUSKY B benefits offered to members.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-294a

Statement of Purpose:

To update and clarify provisions concerning program participants, administration, the appeal process, external review, provider rates and services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]